

TRIBUTARIES OF MAURICE RIVER COVEDRAINAGE AREA

6,900 acres or 10.8 square miles.

LOCATION

Lower portion of Maurice River near Heislerville including the drainage of New England Creek and Dickeys Ditch.

SPONSORS

Cumberland County Soil Conservation District, Commercial Township, Maurice River Township and Department of Environmental Protection (Division of Fish and Wildlife).

OBJECTIVES

To reduce flooding of 439 acres of agricultural land and business and residential areas; to improve wildlife habitat and to reduce erosion and sediment damage.

LAND TREATMENT

Cover cropping, crop rotations and 9 miles of tile drains provide for the land treatment. Technical assistance amounting to \$1,203 was provided to accelerate application of measures valued at \$12,147.

STRUCTURAL MEASURES

Stream channel improvement
Dikes
Tidegates

STATUS

Authorized for operations January 27, 1961. Project completed June 30, 1969. Some 2.6 miles of channel were improved, 2 culverts under Strawberry Avenue were lowered and a 30 inch culvert installed under Route 553 for New England Creek. Installed at Dickeys Ditch were 2.6 miles of channel, 810 feet of dike and a tidegate structure with two 36 inch pipes. Three tidegate structures and 2.4 miles of dikes were completed for the wildlife area near Heislerville. The land treatment program was completed except for the tile drains. These will be applied under the regular District program.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife operates and maintains the wildlife improvement area. Some dike selling has required fill. The reach of dike used as a public road near Matts Landing is maintained by Maurice River Township, New England Creek and Dickeys Ditch is maintained by Commercial Township.

BENEFITS

The project provides over \$64,000 in average annual benefits to agricultural lands plus improved recreational opportunities.